

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 MC-01 PM-03 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1599

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5088

FROM PAGANELLI, EMBASSY DOHA

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, QA, US

SUBJECT: QATARI REQUEST FOR 105 MM ARTILLERY AND OTHER

EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 244719; KUWAIT 4897

1. BECAUSE OF DOHA'S LACK OF ITS OWN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, REFTEL NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED UNTIL NOV 16. BRIGADIER ATTIYAH WAS THEN TIED UP WITH FOREIGN TRAVEL AND VISITING DELEGATIONS AND I WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE HIM TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL UNTIL NOV 25.

2. ATTIYAH MADE CAREFUL NOTES ON PRICE, TIMING AND CONDITIONS OF POSSIBLE SALE OF M102 HOWITZERS. RE DELIVERY TIME, HE REMARKED THAT UK ESTIMATE FOR SIMILAR ITEM WAS FIVE YEARS, AND US TWO-YEAR TIMING SUITED GOQ'S REQUIREMENTS VERY WELL. HE NOTED THAT DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA HE HAD SEEN 102S AND OTHER US EQUIPMENT IN ACTION AND HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED. RE FORMAL CABINET-LEVEL OR AMIRI REQUEST TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS, ATTIYAH SAID SINCE GOQ HAS NO MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HE IS FULLY AUTHORIZED BY AMIR TO PUT ANY REQUEST IN WRITING AND THIS

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CARRIES FULL AUTHORITY OF GOQ. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY RELIABLE

SOURCE WITHIN ARMED FORCES THAT ATTIYAH IS THE AMIR'S "MAN" FOR ARMS PROCUREMENT).

3. SPECIFYING THAT IN PREPARATION FOR OUR MEETING HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF ARMS PROCUREMENT FROM US WITH AMIR ON NOV 24, ATTIYAH THEN REVIEWED FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH GOQ INTERESTED IN PROCURING FROM US. (SHOPPING LIST APPARENTLY THAT PROMISED ME DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH C-IN-C SHAYKH HAMAD NOV 5 (KUWAIT 4897).):

(A) SIX M102 105 MM HOWITZERS. (ATTIYAH ASKED WHETHER PROCUREMENT OF 12 RATHER THAN SIX WOULD REDUCE UNIT PRICE. I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T THINK SO, BUT WOULD INQUIRE. PLEASE ADVISE). AMMUNITION PRICES FOR THIS WEAPON AND STORAGE LIFE OF AMMO. SUITABLE VEHICLES FOR TOWING. ATTIYAH SPECIFIED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WHAT WE PROVIDED SAUDIS FOR THIS PURPOSE. TWO-YEAR SUPPLY OF SPARES AND "APPROPRIATE TRAINING AIDS". ATTIYAH SAID THAT GOQ ALSO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING A US MILITARY INSTRUCTOR FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS TO TRAIN QATARI TROOPS IN USE OF WEAPON.

(B) TWELVE 30MM OR 40MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. ATTIYAH WAS NOT SURE WHICH CALIBER WAS STANDARD US PRODUCTION, BUT WEAPON WAS APPARENTLY WHAT HE SAW IN SAUDI ARABIA. TWO-YEAR SUPPLY OF AMMO AND SPARES AND INDICATION OF STORAGE LIFE FOR AMMO. TRAINING AIDS AND INSTRUCTOR FOR TWO-YEAR PERIOD. (DURING DISCUSSION OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS SUBORDINATE OFFICER WHO WAS PRESENT MENTIONED GOQ INTEREST IN SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES. ATTIYAH EMPHASITICALLY SHUT HIM UP AND REPEATED GOQ REQUEST TO US WAS FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY).

(C) PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA ON 106MM JEEP-CARRIED ANTI-TANK WEAPON. AGAIN, ATTIYAH SAW THIS ITEM IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. ATTIYAH REQUESTED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH CONSOLIDATED ANSWER TO ABOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I.E. PRICES, AVAILABILITY, DELIVERY TIME, ETC. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT APPROACH ANY OTHER COUNTRY OR SOURCE FOR THESE ITEMS PENDING OUR RESPONSE WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE REASONABLY PROMPT. ATTIYAH SAID HE WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF US MILITARY EXPERT TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL

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ABOVE QATARI REQUIREMENTS.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE QATARIS ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE ON M102S, ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY, AND ON 106 MM ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IF AVAILABLE. I SUGGEST THAT IT BE ARRANGED THAT DOD REP, PERHAPS FROM KUWAIT, BE PREPARED TO COME TO DOHA TALK TO ATTIYAH WHEN RESPONSE TO ABOVE REQUEST PREPARED. RE REQUIRED WRITTEN REQUEST FROM GOQ BEFORE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN, I AM CONFIDENT

THIS WILL BE QUICKLY FORTHCOMING AFTER RESPONSE TO ABOVE REQUEST  
RECEIVED AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS BASED ON RESPONSE HELD  
WITH DOD REP.  
STOLTZFUS

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## Message Attributes

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